

Writing a Coherent Research Paper

(Writing your Outline)



Organization

- I. Introduction - with 3 non-approved sources.
- II. Main point (Article) 1
- III. Main point (Article) 2
- IV. Main point (Article) 3
- V. Conclusion

Main point 1 (Approved Article)

- Should be the paragraph from your Article Analysis.
- The title of the article should be the label of the first main point (next to the roman numeral).
- Supporting details are delineated with letters.
- Should include the word “Transition:” followed by a written transition statement at the end.

Example of Main Point (Article) 1

- II. Fortune Favors the Bold and Italicized (Diemand-Yauman, Oppenheimer, & Vaughan, 2011)
 - A. 65 participants read different typefaces - *Participants*
 - B. tested one week later - *Procedures - What they did*
 - C. difficult typeface improve memory - *What were the results*

Transition: Although reading a difficult typeface may improve long-term memory, it remains to be seen whether it would work for short term learning.

Example 2 of Main Point (Article)

- I. Loving Zombies is Related to Loving Statistics (Grimes & Morgan, 2013)
 - A. 500 students completed survey.
 - B. Negative correlation between loving stats and zombies
 - C. Suggested statistics kill zombies with power

Transition: Students who love zombies from the cinema may also have disdain for other subjects.

On to the
Introduction...

Your Introductory Points

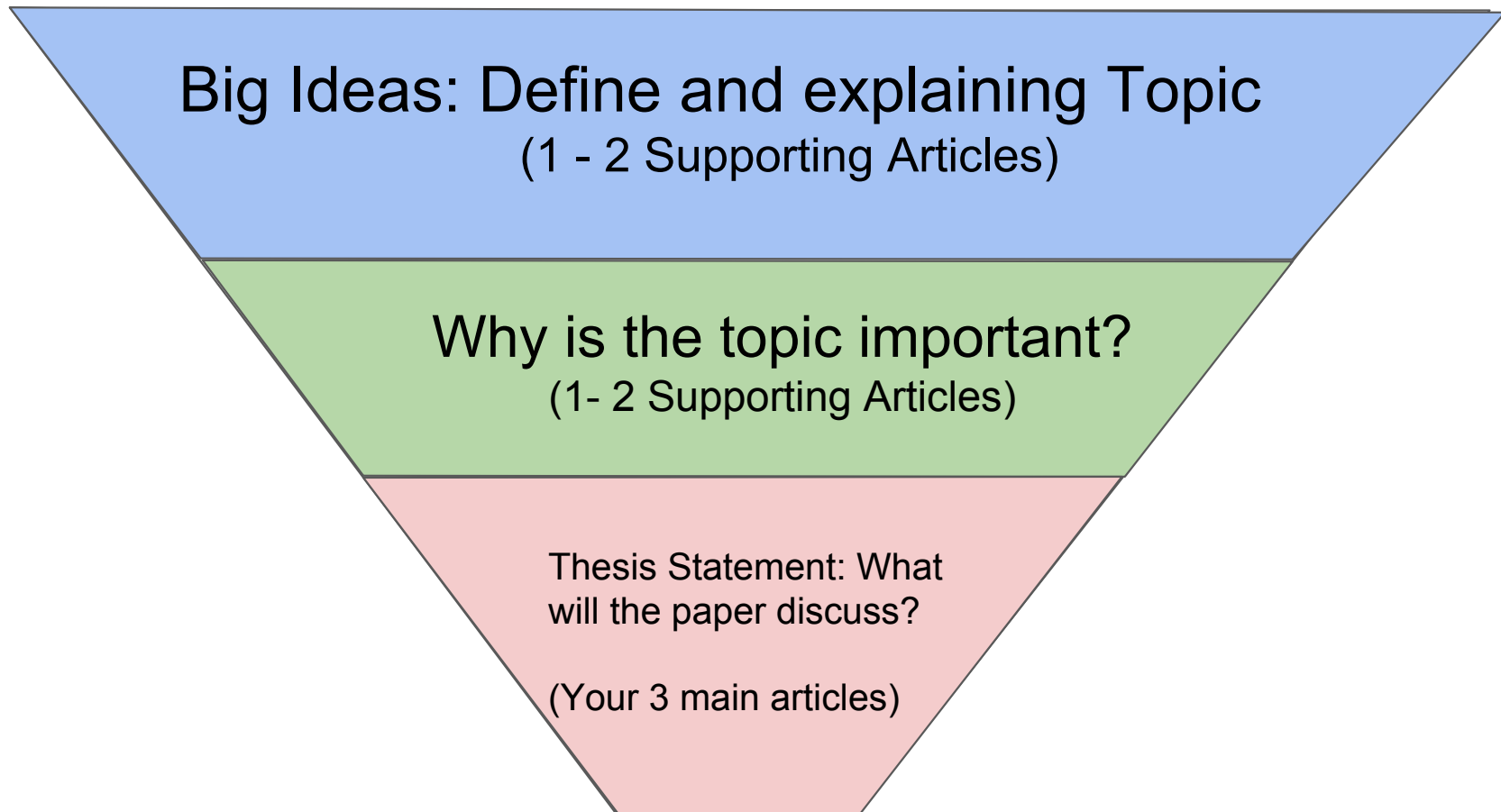
All of your Main Points
should be written before
your introduction!

Introduction

- A. Will include **at least three** basic introductory points with citations
- B. These points will be after letters (A, B, C, etc.)
- C. Should conclude with a thesis statement.

Introduction points may NOT be the same as your main points!

The Introduction Funnel Method



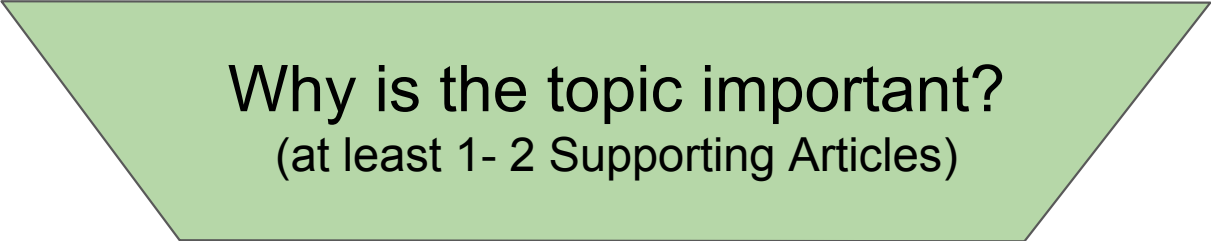
The Introduction Funnel Example



Big Ideas: Define and explaining Topic
(1 - 2 Supporting Articles)

One very important element of an undergraduate psychology education is taking courses in statistics (APA, 2013), which usually involves learning how to use quantitative data to evaluate scientific hypotheses (Beins, Smith, & Dunn, 2007).

The Introduction Funnel Method



Why is the topic important?
(at least 1- 2 Supporting Articles)

Unfortunately, statistics courses are not usually beloved amongst students in graduate or undergraduate programs (Dunn, 2014). However, previous research has found that mixing interesting tasks may improve intrinsic motivation (Patall, 2013), and college students appear to enjoy television programs about alternative realities (Scully & Mulder, 1998).

Example of Introduction 2

I. Introduction

- A. Statistics is important part of undergrad psych (APA, 2014)
- B. Stats is not generally enjoyed by students (Beins, Smith, & Dunn, 2014).
- C. Interesting tasks may improve motivation (Patall, 2013).
- D. College students find television programs about alternative realities interesting (Mulder & Scully, 1999).

Introductory
points



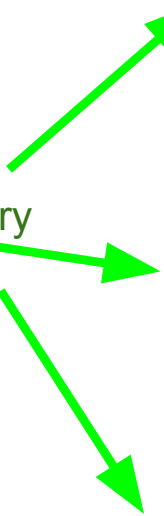
Introduction points may NOT be the same as your main points!

Example of Introduction 2

I. Introduction

- A. Students often struggle to learn material from reading (Oppenheimer & Vaughan, 2007).
- B. Sometimes difficulty is good for learning (Bjork & Bjork, 1994).
- C. Reading slow may be beneficial (Clark, 2013).

Introductory
points



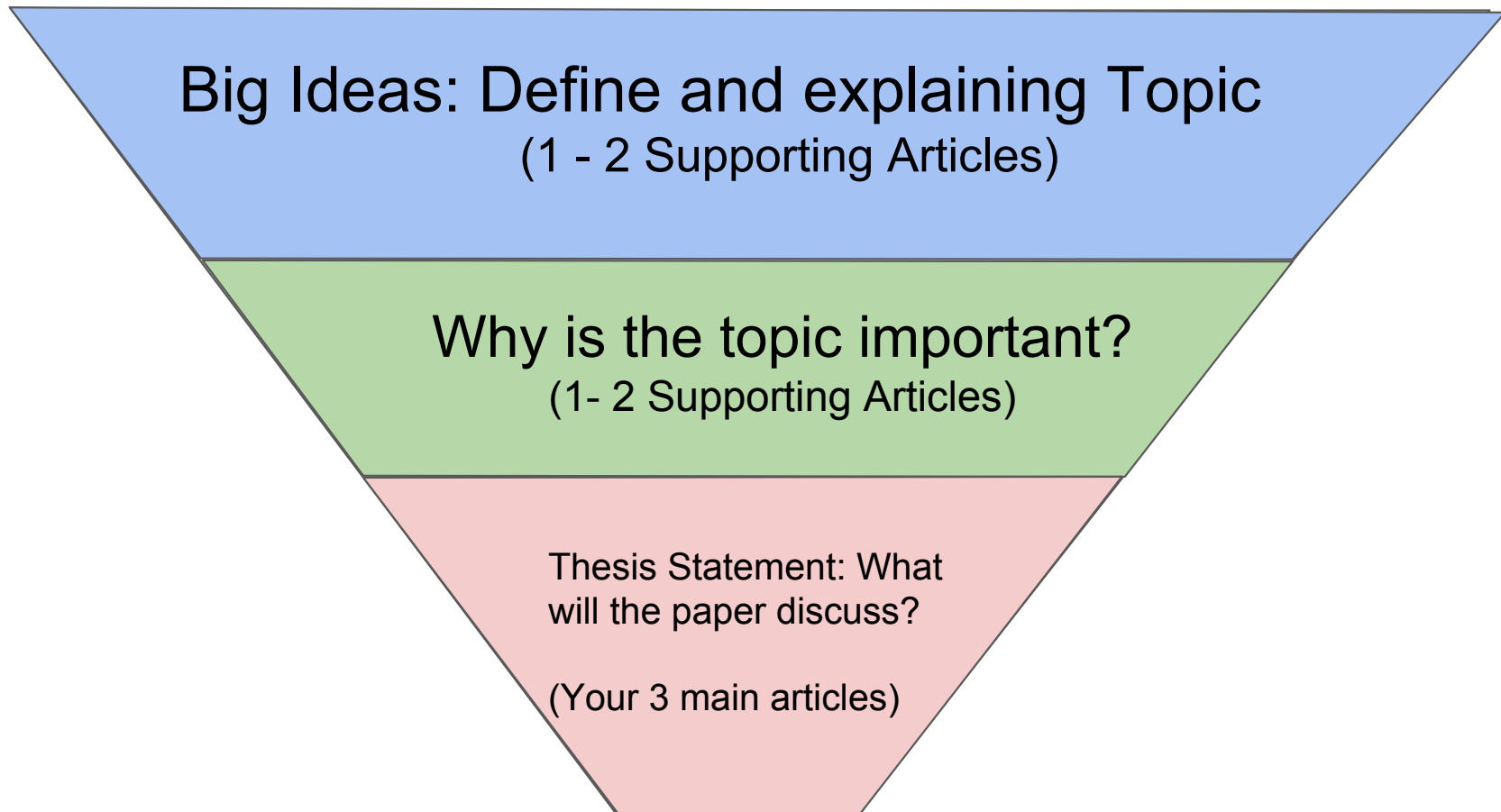
Introduction points may NOT be the same as your main points!

Your Thesis Statement

Thesis Statement

- A. Basically summarizes your entire paper
- B. Should include citations of all 3 of your articles
- C. Should be written out in it's entirety on your outline.

The Introduction Funnel Method

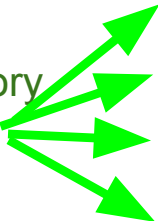


Example of Introduction 1

I. Introduction

- A. Statistics is important part of undergrad psych (APA, 2014)
- B. Stats is not generally enjoyed by students (Beins, Smith, & Dunn, 2014).
- C. Interesting tasks may improve motivation (Patall, 2013).
- D. College students find television programs about alternative realities interesting (Mulder & Scully, 1999).

Introductory
points



Thesis



Thesis: Although it may not be readily apparent, there is a relationship between students love of statistics and zombies (Grimes & Morgan, 2013), so that teaching statistics using a zombie genre can improve students' enjoyment of a statistics course (Clark, 2016) and their motivation for academic achievement (Legend, 2015).

Example of Introduction 2

I. Introduction

Introductory
points

- A. Students often struggle to learn material from reading (Oppenheimer & Vaughan, 2007).
- B. Sometimes difficulty is good for learning (Bjork & Bjork, 1994).
- C. Reading slow may be beneficial (Clark, 2013).

Thesis

Thesis: Learning from disfluent typefaces may improve long-term memory (Diemand-Yauman, Oppenheimer, & Vaughan, 2011), slow down reading (Clark, 2014), but disfluent typefaces do not appear to improve short-term memory (Clark & Robinson, 2012).

Anatomy of a Thesis

First Article (with citation)

Thesis: Although it may not be readily apparent, there is a relationship between students love of statistics and zombies (Grimes & Morgan, 2013), so that teaching statistics using a zombie genre can improve students' enjoyment of a statistics course (Clark, 2016), and their motivation for academic achievement (Legend, 2015).

Second Article (with citation)

Third Article (with citation)

Anatomy of a Thesis

First Article (with citation)

Thesis: Learning from disfluent typefaces may improve long-term memory

(Diemand-Yauman, Oppenheimer, & Vaughan, 2011), slow down reading

(Clark, 2013); but disfluent typefaces do not appear to improve short-term

memory (Clark & Robinson, 2012).

Second Article (with citation)

Third Article (with citation)

To be concluded...

Final Instructions

Conclusion

- A. Summarize what you said with all 3 citations
- B. Re-state your thesis.

References

- A. Include all 6 (at least) articles.
- B. See reference list videos for help.

For Example...

- A. See the example inside the Canvas module.

Good luck!